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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir,

Amendment dated April 2 , 2002

This is to eliminate some minor errors in previous amendment entitled "Amendment dated March 10 , 2002".

Claims 10, 16 are amended.

In claim 10, second paragraph after "wherein:", line 3, "executable directly" is being changed with "usable". This change narrows claim 10 to a reasonable scope.

New claim 23 submitted in "Amendment dated March 10, 2002" should actually be new claim 22 and it is now re-submitted with the correct claim number.

↳ replacement for other claim

Respectfully submitted,

Ho Keung, Tse.

10. (Seventh Time Amended) A computer software product for protecting other software against unauthorised use , comprising :

authorising program for providing user access to said software desired to be protected ;

wherein :

information specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected, exists in said authorising program as a part thereof [and being accessible to the user thereof] ;

said existing information being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) for which said rightful user(s) has to be responsible, but not being [executable directly] usable by said processing apparatus for said electronic commerce purpose, when said authorising program being loaded on said processing apparatus as a part thereof ;

said authorising program existing in a computer readable medium .

11. A computer software product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) and said computer readable medium being data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

12. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

obtaining a first information from a user of a processing apparatus having an identity software/means ;

using said first information received being correct as a pre-condition for causing said processing apparatus to provide user access to said software desired to be protected;

16. (Sixth Time Amended) A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

(a) obtaining by protection software running on a processing apparatus, say, first processing apparatus, first information from the user thereof ;

(b) determining by said protection software, from said processing apparatus second information related to the hardware or/and software thereof for future reference in step (c) below, in response to said first information obtained being consistent with [second] third information [therein] contained in said protection software ; thereafter

(c) authenticating a processing apparatus, say, second processing apparatus , basing on at least a part of said second information ;

(d) using a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus ;

wherein said [second] third information being confidential information of a rightful user of said software desire to be protected and being necessary for enabling electronic transaction(s) for which said rightful user has to be responsible ; and said method is being performed without causing a said transaction take place .

17. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed by claim 12, wherein said software desired to be protected being purchased commercial software.

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22(First time Amended). A software product comprising computer code for causing one or more processing apparatus to perform the method of claim 1, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 or [20] 21 ;

said computer code existing in a computer readable medium.

10. A computer software product for protecting other software against unauthorised use , comprising :

authorising program for providing user access to said software desired to be protected ;

wherein :

information specific to rightful user(s) of said software desired to be protected, exists in said authorising program as a part thereof ;

said existing information being capable of being used in enabling electronic commerce operation(s) for which said rightful user(s) has to be responsible, but not being usable by said processing apparatus for said electronic commerce purpose, when said authorising program being loaded on said processing apparatus as a part thereof ;

said authorising program existing in a computer readable medium .

11. A computer software product as claimed in claim 10, wherein said operation being operation related to making payment from an account of said rightful user(s) and said computer readable medium being data signal embodied in a carrier wave.

12. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

obtaining a first information from a user of a processing apparatus having an identity software/means ;

using said first information received being correct as a pre-condition for causing said processing apparatus to provide user access to said software desired to be protected;

16. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use , comprising the steps of :

(a) obtaining by protection software running on a processing apparatus, say, first processing apparatus, first information from the user thereof ;

(b) determining by said protection software, from said processing apparatus second information related to the hardware or/and software thereof for future reference in step (c) below, in response to said first information obtained being consistent with third information contained in said protection software ; thereafter

(c) authenticating a processing apparatus, say, second processing apparatus , basing on at least a part of said second information ;

(d) using a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus ;

wherein said third information being confidential information of a rightful user of said software desire to be protected and being necessary for enabling electronic transaction(s) for which said rightful user has to be responsible ; and said method is being performed without causing a said transaction take place .

17. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, as claimed by claim 12, wherein said software desired to be protected being purchased commercial software.

22. A software product comprising computer code for causing one or more processing apparatus to perform the method of claim 1, 12, 14, 16, 18 , 20 or 21 ;

said computer code existing in a computer readable medium.

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